

Agilent Ref: 10004415-1
United States Application Serial No. 09/740,660

AMENDMENTS

In the specification:

Page 4, paragraph of lines 8 to 13:

The term "surface coating" refers to a thin film or layer applied to a matrix material and shall include both known and unknown organo-metallic compounds and elements capable of acting as energy donors ~~acceptors~~. For purposes of this invention, the above term shall also include the situation when the donor is distributed in the entire matrix and parts thereof. In such a situation, at least a small fraction of the donor near the surface of matrix will participate in the energy transfer process.

In the claims:

1. (Currently amended) An encapsulation vesicle, comprising:
- (a) a matrix having a surface;
 - (b) a surface coating on said matrix, wherein said surface coating includes a fluorescent donor molecule ~~that is absorbed on, absorbed within, or covalently attached to the surface of said matrix;~~ and
 - (c) a protection layer encapsulating said surface coating that permits at least partial transmission of fluorescence emission from said fluorescent molecule upon irradiation of said fluorescent molecule; wherein ~~upon irradiation said fluorescent donor molecule emits fluorescence that is at least partially transmitted through said surface coating, and wherein said protection layer reduces collisional quenching of said fluorescence.~~
2. (Previously presented) An encapsulation vesicle as recited in claim 1, wherein said matrix comprises a sol-gel material.

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no ligand